GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2846
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Role of Private Players in Passport Issuance
Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has agreed, while setting up the PSP project, that it will not abrogate the sovereign functions of the Government to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government in 2011 has further identified the sovereign and non-sovereign functions of Passport Issuance System;

(d) whether the sovereign and non-sovereign functions of the Government regarding passport issuance has been given to private players;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of actions taken to safeguard the sovereign functions under the Passport Act?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes. While setting up the Passport Seva Project (PSP), the Government agreed for outsourcing of front-end activities which do not involve sovereign functions of the Government to private players.

(b) to (e) In the PSP, the functions, roles and responsibilities of the Government and the private player have been segregated based on its criticality and sovereignty of critical assets including data and information. The staff of the Service Provider (private player) will perform the non-sovereign functions of data entry, scanning and uploading of documents, capturing of photo and the prescribed bio-metric. All the sovereign functions such as verification of the authenticity of documents, granting, impounding, revocation of the passports, review of Police Verification Report (PVR) in adverse PVR cases, policy matters, background checks of the passport applicants, printing and dispatch of passports etc. are performed by Government officials.

(f) All the necessary precautions have been taken by the Government to safeguard the sovereign functions under the Passport Act.